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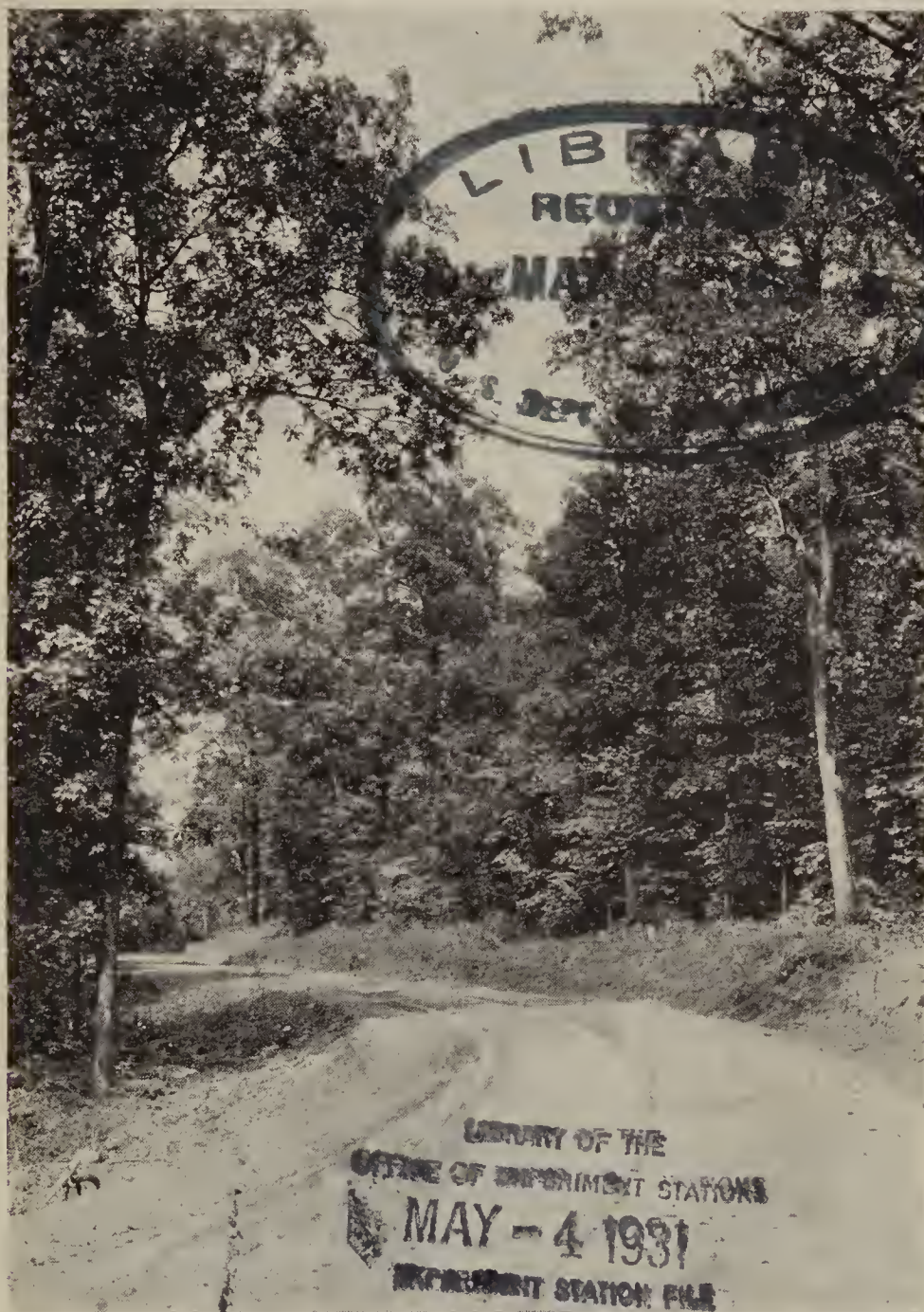


Map Case  
Reserve

1930

=765 Ma

# ALABAMA NATIONAL FOREST ALABAMA



F-221506

Leaves unfold into horizon free

A forest is more than a collection of trees. It is not merely a wood storehouse. It is a wood factory, a water reservoir, a fish hatchery, a game refuge, and a wild-flower preserve. All these in one the forest truly is.—GIFFORD PINCHOT.

This folder contains a map of the Alabama National Forest and information about its resources and purposes.

Additional information may be obtained from the Forest Supervisor, Forest Service, Athens, Tenn., and from the Forest Ranger, Moulton, Ala.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE—EASTERN REGION

MF-13 R. 7

ISSUED APRIL, 1931



# *The* ALABAMA NATIONAL FOREST

"THE REGION OF FAST GROWING TIMBER"

By CLINTON G. SMITH

*old ✓*  
1879-

In northern Alabama there is a most fascinating forest where southern and northern trees fraternize and grow with surprising vigor. The forest is unique in its natural tree associations; for here we have hemlock, that rugged, sturdy, northern tree, and within half an hour's walk, longleaf pine, the pride of the South. Again, a few cypress trees are found in the vicinity of beech and many of the other northern hardwoods, with the shortleaf and loblolly pines hard by. This unusual flora is not so interest-



F-221484

A mixed hardwood stand of beauty and value

ing, however, as is the fact that here many trees can grow and grow rapidly and the strictly indigenous trees with unusual vigor. The soil and climate are largely responsible for this prolific growth. Native trees yield the largest timber crops.

## LOCATION OF THE FOREST

Within this interesting region is the Alabama National Forest with a gross area of 200,000 acres. It is located in Winston, Lawrence, and Franklin Counties, 40 miles southeast of Muscle Shoals and 85 miles northwest of Birmingham, on the headwaters of the Black Warrior River.

## EARLY HISTORY OF THE REGION

The land now embraced within the forest is rich in Indian history, having been occupied by the Cherokees and the Chickasaw tribes. This immediate territory was ceded to the white race by the treaties of September 14, 1816, with the Cherokee Indians, and of September 20, 1816, with the Chickasaws. Arrowheads and spear points of rock, can still be found here, and scattered through Lawrence County are Indian mounds, some of them along the northern boundary of the forest. Between 1820 and 1830 the ceded lands were subdivided by surveyors of the National Government and the area made available for white settlers.

## ABUSE OF THE FOREST

The Indians were removed westward and settlement proceeded with increasing momentum until the peak of development was reached three decades ago. Along with legitimate necessary use, there was great abuse. Man-caused fires took toll of the virgin timber as the years passed, and by the beginning of the twentieth century a large part of the area had been burned so severely that much of the remaining timber had been damaged. The best of the merchantable virgin timber having been harvested and the forest devastated by fires, the reproduction was less extensive and markedly inferior in quality.

The soils on the Alabama National Forest are not suited for the permanent production of agricultural crops. They are subject to early exhaustion and erosion. These soils are safely classified as chiefly valuable for the permanent production of timber crops, except on specific areas near agricultural centers about Addison, Upshaw, and Moreland.

## THE PEOPLE ACT

In our western States, about 150,000,000 acres of land were set aside from the public domain and our national forest system had, by 1910, grown to vigorous maturity. In the east and south there was little public domain, but in 1911, in response to insistent demands by the public, the Weeks Law launched the Federal Government upon a program of land pur-



chase for national forest purposes. Prior to the enactment of the Weeks Law the State of Alabama, by an act approved November 30, 1907, gave its consent to the purchase of lands by the Federal Government for national forest purposes. Under authority of these two laws, acreage within the present Alabama National Forest was acquired, beginning in 1914, and on January 15, 1918, a proclamation was issued creating the Alabama National Forest. Approximately 115,000 acres have been acquired to date or are in process of purchase, and 18,000 acres reserved from the public domain, a total of approximately 133,000 out of the 200,000 acres gross area.

Persons who own land for sale are invited to submit a proposal. The land is examined and, if found



F-221496

Lookout man on duty. The telephone line provides communication with fire crews

suitable, is appraised and an offer made to the owner. If an agreement as to price is reached, the sale of the land to the Government is accomplished under proper procedure. No land is taken under process of arbitrary condemnation.

## PROTECTION OF THE FOREST FROM FIRE

When the land was acquired by the Federal Government, an organization was assembled to protect the timber from fire. A ranger, guards, and lookout men were employed and trained, and cabins and four lookout towers were erected. One hundred miles of





telephone lines have been built, and provide prompt communication with fire-fighting crews who are ready to go when called. Crews are equipped with tools and food supplies to enable them to stay on the job until the fire is extinguished. During dry seasons, lookouts watch night and day for the start of fire in order that prompt dispatch of a crew may be made.

Methods of preventing fires are varied. All roads and trails leading through the forest are well marked with signs asking travelers to be careful not to start fires; a great deal of literature telling of the damage caused by forest fires is distributed among the local people and visitors to the forest. Moving



Soil moisture is conserved in forest soils. A good stand of red gum F-221547

picture shows are given by a lecturer every year at schools within or near the forest and these shows depict the havoc caused by forest fires. The fire situation can be controlled if everyone uses extreme care to prevent the start of a fire.

People who deliberately set fire to the forest are prosecuted in either the State or Federal courts.

**FORESTS ARE JOBS—TREES MEAN TRADE—  
DON'T BURN THEM UP**



# DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOREST

## Watershed Protection

The object of Congress in providing funds for the purchase of eastern national forests was the conservation of the watersheds of navigable streams. The Alabama Forest lies on the headwaters of the Black Warrior River. This stream is important for furnishing water power and is used for navigation to a point in its lower reaches. In 1929 the Alabama



F-221399

A veteran white oak that will produce timber of exceptional value

floods showed the necessity of soil conservation and a good vegetative cover for all lands not in cultivation. The forest acts as a reservoir for the storage of flood waters up to its capacity to absorb moisture.

## TIMBER PRODUCTION

This forest is largely a land of hardwoods although pines flourish and are coming into the as-



cendency. Within its boundaries to-day there is one hundred million feet of merchantable timber. Its value is approximately half a million dollars and each year becomes greater. All of this timber will be cut on a sustained yield basis; that is, the annual cut will not be allowed to exceed the annual growth.

As a result, the timber supply of the forest should never be less than at present, and as the entire land area is gradually brought to greater productivity, the timber stands will steadily increase in quantity, quality, and value. Under the Forest Service system of timber farming, fully stocked timberlands of this type should produce 250 feet of timber per acre per year. On the Alabama this would mean an annual production of nearly 30,000,000 feet of material



F-221537

The rivers are being stocked with bass and bream

which can be harvested without damage to the forest or depreciation of the forest capital. Yields much greater than 250 feet of timber per acre are to be expected when the forest is converted into a better producing unit. The harvesting of this timber should eventually require the services of 200 men continuously.

We have been cutting and burning all classes of timber in the United States faster than we are growing it. Conservation through use, is the solution of the timber problem, and it is this form of development which is back of the plans and policies in effect on the Alabama National Forest.



## Road Program

The Government has spent over \$50,000 on maintenance of old roads and construction of new roads on the forest to date.

Further work will be done on the Cheatham, Cranal, and Byler Roads, and all will be maintained. In the next few years more highways will be constructed and a greater mileage maintained. Besides these main arteries, several hundred miles of development roads will be opened.

A loop drive of 60 miles is afforded by use of the Cheatham, Cranal, and Byler Roads. These roads will have their greatest economic value in providing highways to facilitate the utilization of national forest products.



F-212519

Deer released on the Sipsey River Game Refuge are restocking the Alabama National Forest

## Fish and Game

As a step toward restocking the forest with native game, the State Fish and Game Commission of Alabama has established the Sipsey River Game Refuge, an area of 16,000 acres within the forest and has released 100 deer within this refuge.

This herd has increased rapidly, and under the State law persons having a State license and a Forest Service registration certificate may hunt deer outside the refuge for a limited period each year. With the protection given within the refuge, the wild life which formerly abounded will be restored to the Alabama National Forest, and in a few years the overflow from the refuge will make good hunting in all portions of the forest. No hunting is allowed on the refuge.



## Visitors to the Forest

Approximately 30,000 people, including hunters, tourists, campers, picnickers, and hikers, visit the forest each year. The Forest Service maintains one public camp, the Kinlock Forest Camp. This is an improved area into which the tourist may drive his car, and where he may erect his tent and spend the night, or week, as he may choose. He may angle in the streams, follow the woodland drives, and observe the deer and other game animals.

Because of fire danger the Forest Service requires that all persons intending to hunt on the forest be registered. Registration is free, but it is required that the hunter produce his State license. The State of Alabama retains authority to regulate hunt-



Picnickers in the Alabama National Forest

F-221540

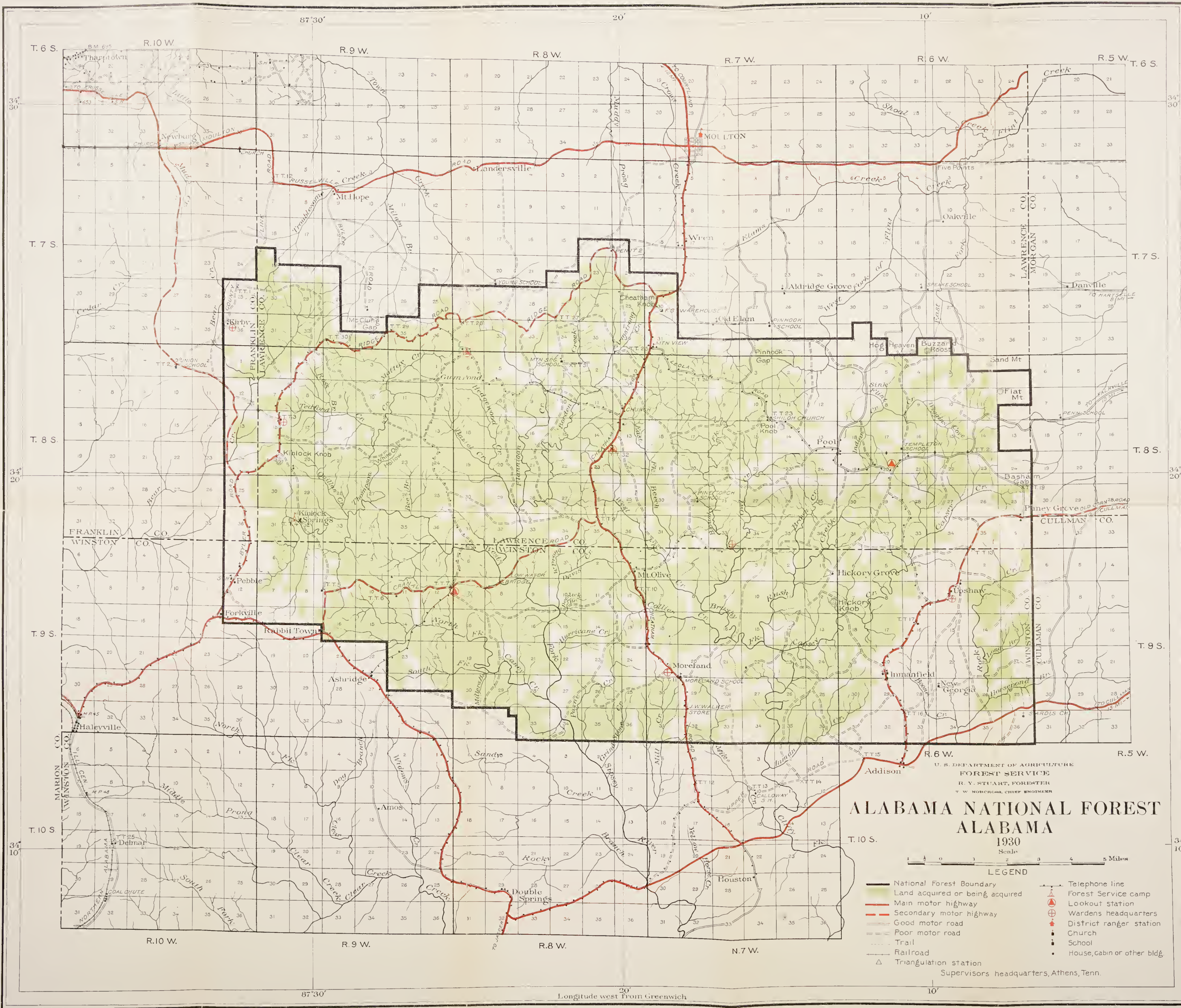
ing and fishing on the national forest, and the prospective hunter or fisherman should procure licenses and information as to the game and fish laws before entering the forest.

## Summer Homes

Although there are two clubhouses in the forest, no summer homes have been erected. Summer home sites will be available when there is a demand.

**IF YOU DON'T KNOW—ASK A FOREST  
RANGER**





U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
R. V. STUART, FORESTER  
T. W. NORCROSS, CHIEF ENGINEER

# ALABAMA NATIONAL FOREST

## ALABAMA

1930

Scale 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

LEGEND

- National Forest Boundary
- Land acquired or being acquired
- Main motor highway
- Secondary motor highway
- Good motor road
- Poor motor road
- Trail
- Railroad
- Triangulation station
- Telephone line
- Forest Service camp
- Lookout station
- Wardens headquarters
- District ranger station
- Church
- School
- House, cabin or other bldg.

Supervisors' headquarters, Athens, Tenn.





## SIX RULES FOR PREVENTION OF FIRE

1. **Matches.**—Be sure your match is out. Break it in two before you throw it away.
2. **Tobacco.**—Throw pipe ashes and cigar or cigarette stubs in the dust of the road and stamp or pinch out the fire before leaving them. Don't throw them into brush, leaves, or needles.
3. **Making camp.**—Build a small camp fire. Build it in the open, not against a tree or logs or near brush. Scrape away the trash from around it.
4. **Leaving camp.**—Never leave a camp fire, even for a short time. Quench it with water or earth.
5. **Bonfires.**—Never build bonfires in windy weather or where there is the slightest danger of their escape from control. Don't make fires larger than you need.
6. **Fighting fires.**—If you find a fire, try to put it out. If you can't, get word at once to the nearest U. S. Forest ranger or State fire warden.

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## KEEP THE FOREST GREEN

This map is designed to facilitate your travels throughout the forest. In return for what you get from the forest the Forest Service asks only your active cooperation in preventing forest fires and in protecting the forest from any abuse which would tend to destroy its value as a public property or lessen its attractiveness to those who will come after you.

UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS, A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$5,000, OR A JAIL SENTENCE, MAY RESULT FROM WILLFUL OR NEGLIGENT SETTING OF FIRES IN A NATIONAL FOREST.

BEFORE LEAVING A FIRE ALWAYS EXTINGUISH IT WITH WATER AND COVER THE ASHES WITH EARTH.